

# The Daily Charge

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*Telling the MND-Baghdad Story*

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(U.S. Army photo)

## Knowledge is power!

Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, coach Iraqi soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division on techniques to enter and clear rooms during the first Iraqi Army noncommissioned officer training course at Combat Outpost War Eagle in Adhamiyah, Baghdad Mar. 16-18. (See story page 4)

## Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers provide medical care to Adhamiyah locals

**By Sgt. Mike Pryor**  
**2-82 Abn. Public Affairs**

ADHAMIYAH, Baghdad - The little boy shyly enters Chief Warrant Officer Ra'ad Kasem Usar's examination room, peeking out from behind his mother's black chador. The boy, who has a runny nose and a bad cough, is better off than many of the patients Ra'ad has seen today in this vacant schoolhouse converted into an ad-hoc medical clinic. Still, Ra'ad treats him tenderly and pays careful attention to the list

of symptoms the boy's mother describes. Then he gives her some decongestant medication and cough suppressant pills and sends them on their way.

For Ra'ad, medical officer for the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, taking care of patients with even minor illnesses is an investment in the future.

"Small sickness turns into big sickness. Maybe now he has just a cough, but if no one gives him medicine, later on it's big trouble," Ra'ad

said.

Investing in the future of Adhamiyah by providing easy, basic medical care to residents was the goal during a medical assistance operation sponsored by paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi soldiers from the 3-2-6 IA in the Hay Basateen community Mar. 24.

More than 100 people were treated

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# Medical operation in Adhaiyah helps locals

## Medical

From Page 1

during the operation, the majority of them women and children.

The operation took place inside a vacant school building. Combat engineers from A Co., 325th Special Troops Battalion arrived first to clear the building and secure the area. As soon as the schoolhouse was clear, the medics arrived and began bringing in supplies and equipment. They quickly converted several classrooms and offices into treatment rooms, a patient waiting room, and a pharmacy. Outside, a crowd began to gather as word spread that the clinic was open. Many people arrived clutching X-rays and prescriptions that were years or even decades old.

As the first patients started funneling in, Capt. Lucas Leonard, stethoscope around his neck and a smile on his face, seemed to be everywhere. As one of the key planners of the event, Leonard, a trauma team leader with the 407th Brigade Support



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

**Sgt. Kerry Scott (background) with C Co., 407th BSB watches as 1st Lt. Sonia Nieves with the 442nd CA Bn., does an ear exam on a little boy during a medical assistance operation in Basateen, Adhamiyah Mar. 24.**

Battalion from Mt. Carmel, Ill., was eager to see it succeed.

"The benefit for them is that we can treat a wide variety of outpatient conditions that they may not be able to see a doctor about. The benefit for us is that it shows the people we care," Leonard said.

The community of Hay Basateen was chosen as the site of the operation both because of its poor overall health situation and

because of the willingness of community leaders to cooperate with coalition and Iraqi forces, said 1st Lt. Brook Carrier, assistant civil-military operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment.

"We put this in place because we know there's a lack of medical care in this area and as a reward for the community's cooperation," she said.

The operation also gave resi-

dents of Adhamiyah a chance to see Iraqi security forces working together with coalition forces in a friendly environment. At a time when the role of the Iraqi Army is undergoing a major shift from a focus on war-fighting to more of a police-type mission, letting people see IA soldiers working hard to improve the quality of life in the community is important, said Ra'ad.

"They see we don't come here for war, we come here for security," he said.

Iraqi soldiers took the lead in providing crowd control and guarding the entrance to the clinic. But Ra'ad's presence in the treatment room proved to be an even more welcome sight for some local people.

Ra'ad said many of his patients were first surprised, then delighted to find out they were going to be treated by an Iraqi.

"They think I am an American. I say, 'No, I am Iraqi!' They are very happy to see an Iraqi helping them," he said.

## Arabic Phrase of the Day

*hwaaya*

**Defined:  
much**

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 75  
Low: 50



Tomorrow

High: 70  
Low: 54



Wednesday

High: 75  
Low: 48

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(U.S. Army Photo)

2nd Bde., 8th IA soldiers with Paratroopers of the BSTB, 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div., discuss the execution of an operation in the early morning hours March 24 near Tounis.

## Operation reaps large cache

### 4-25 Inf. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq - An operation south of Baghdad by Iraqi Army soldiers uncovered a large weapon and ammunition cache, improvised explosive device making material and detained insurgents March 23.

2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition Military Transition Team from 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division conducted a cordon and search near Diyarrah which greatly limited the ability of insurgents to operate in the area.

The Iraqi Army led cordon was effective, 31 insurgents were detained.

"This was an outstanding operation. The IA was aggressive in taking the initiative," said Lt. Col. Thomas Roth, commander, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and native of San Jose, Calif. "Their execution of this mission and others like it will bring security to northern Babil province."

They conducted a precise operation that apprehended detainees wanted by coalition forces and Iraqi security forces.

The operation found several insurgent bunkers used as hiding places when pursued by Iraqi security forces.

Bomb detector kits revealed 12 positive results on detainees; indicating they had been

handling explosives.

The cache uncovered during the operation included nine AK-47s, one assault rifle, one heavy machine gun, 500 rounds 7.62, 50 rounds 14.5 mm, 150 rounds for heavy machine gun, 32 AK-47 ammunition magazines, three concussion grenades, one 122 mm artillery round, one 105 mm artillery round, one anti-tank mine, one rocket-propelled grenade, 400 feet of command wire, two 15 in. pressure wires, one time fuse, several electric blasting caps and non-electric primer caps, six 6-volt motorcycle batteries, five washing machine timers, 50 pounds of explosive accelerator, three grenades, one chemical protective mask, one tractor, and five civilian trucks.

The operation was a joint effort which involved over 400 Iraqi Army personnel and assisted the people of Iraqi in establishing security in the northern portion of Babil province.

"This operation was a major step forward towards Babil achieving provincial Iraqi Control and the IA soldiers preformed well," said Roth.

"Our soldiers felt good about their performance in this operation," said Brig. Gen. Abdul Amir, 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division commander. "Much was achieved by this operation today."

The detainees are being held for further questioning.

## Baghdad in Brief

### Iraqi security forces aid the victims of large car bomb

BAGHDAD- A car-bomb killed 33 Iraqi police officers and wounded 20 officers and 24 civilians in southeast Baghdad March 24.

Initial reports indicate that the Iraqi police officers and Iraqi civilians died when the bomb detonated near a police compound in the Jazeera neighborhood of Baghdad's East Rashid Security District.

"This reinforces that the Jakfir, the people we are against, are not for the citizens of Doura," said Lt. Col. Stephen L.A. Michael, commander of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"They kill indiscriminately; men, women and children. They are losing and will lose because the good citizens of Doura are and will continue to stand against them."

Iraqi security forces and Multi-National Division - Baghdad troops arrived on scene shortly following the morning attack, established checkpoints and began to evacuate the wounded to local hospitals.

Iraqi emergency service personnel also responded to the scene, extinguishing fires and assisting with the medical treatment of those injured in the blast.

There were no MND-B soldiers stationed at the targeted police compound, nor were there any injuries to MND-B personnel in the attack.

The incident is under investigation.

# "Black Falcon" paratroopers train Iraqi NCO's

**By Sgt. Mike Pryor  
2-82 Abn. Public Affairs**

COMBAT OUTPOST WAR EAGLE, Baghdad - Standing on a make-shift rifle range on a shared U.S. - Iraqi base in Baghdad, Staff Sgt. Darin Morgan was doing what he had done a hundred times back at Fort Bragg, N.C.: teaching soldiers how to shoot.

Only now he was doing it in Arabic. "Yameen!" he barked.

The squad of Iraqi soldiers in front of him pivoted to their right and aimed their AK-47s at a row of targets.

"Aman!" yelled Morgan.

They lowered their weapons and switched them to safe.

"I think I'm getting the hang of this," Morgan said.

From new vocabulary words to new combat techniques, there was something for everyone to learn during a three-day training course for Iraqi soldiers sponsored by the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment "Black Falcons" March 16 to 18.

Eighteen Iraqi Soldiers from "Jaguar Platoon" of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Army Division were the first to attend the course. Hundreds more are expected to be

trained in the coming months.

The model for the training was the U.S. Army's Warrior Leader Course for new non-commissioned officers, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Tomlinson, of McAlester, Okla., the Black Falcons' senior NCO.

The training was about one quarter classroom instruction and three quarters practical exercises, said Staff Sgt. Shane Glowcheski, of Rapid City, S.D., a squad leader with the Black Falcons' Bravo Battery, who was one of three American instructors for the course.

With some minor changes, that curriculum is expected to remain in place as the course becomes a permanent fixture at Combat Outpost War Eagle over the coming months, said Tomlinson. New Iraqi units will be cycling through the course every two or three weeks, he said. To accommodate all those personnel, Tomlinson is overseeing the construction of an approximately \$400,000 training facility. It will include barracks facilities for about 60 soldiers, a new classroom, four rifle ranges, and a "shoot house" - a life-like urban battle simulation complex with raised platforms giving instructors a bird's eye-view of the soldiers as they enter and clear rooms.

Things were a little more bare-bones for

the inaugural version of the course. The silhouettes for the ranges hadn't arrived, and the "shoot house" consisted of strips of electrical tape laid on the ground to indicate walls and doors. But these were minor snags, and the Iraqis certainly weren't complaining. They were just happy for the chance to train.

As a result, the instructors made marksmanship a top priority. Out on the range, they broke down bad habits and focused on the fundamentals. Some of the improvements were simple. Glowcheski hugely improved the accuracy of the squad he was training just by convincing them to shoot on semi-automatic instead of fully-automatic, he said.

"They were under the assumption that volume of bullets is what kills people," he said. "I told them, all it takes is one shot."

All the instructors agreed that after only a few hours on the range, the Iraqi soldiers had improved drastically.

"It took one day, and they were SMOKING!," Glowcheski said.

The Iraqis' motivation level remained high over all three days of the course, said Morgan. That especially impressed him, he said, because he knew the Iraqis had to go out on combat patrols all night before attending the training during the day. But their enthusiasm never flagged, he said.

In fact, the Iraqis were so pleased with the three-day course that they asked to have it extended. Future classes are scheduled to last a day longer, to give the soldiers more time on the range, Tomlinson said.

Another area the instructors tried to focus on was giving the Iraqis feedback when they did well.

"By the end of the day, those dudes thought they were Rambo," Glowcheski said.

The Iraqi soldiers weren't the only ones who enjoyed the experience. Glowcheski and Morgan both said they were looking forward to teaching the course again.

"Once you train a soldier and you teach them a task, and they get it, you get that feeling of accomplishment," said Glowcheski.

But the most important thing, he said, was that the Iraqis make the most of the knowledge they learned at the course and use it to help their fellow soldiers.

"For them, knowledge is power," Glowcheski said.



(U.S. Army photo)

**Staff Sgt. Darin Morgan, with Battery B, 2nd Bn., 319th Abn. FA Regt., 82nd Abn. Div., coaches Iraqi soldiers from 3rd Bn., 2nd Bde., 6th IA Div. on techniques to enter and clear rooms during the first Iraqi Army NCO training course at COP War Eagle in Adhamiyah, Baghdad Mar. 16-18.**

# Black Jack women change roles, find success

By Spc. Kate Huff  
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - Six months ago, Spc. Shana Shelby thought she would deploy to Iraq and spend her time in the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion's communications shop. But when she arrived to Kuwait, where the brigade staged before heading to Baghdad, she was told that wouldn't be the case.

"At the time I was very disappointed because I really wanted to do my job," said Shelby, originally from New Orleans. "It was very frustrating."

She and many other females from the Brigade's organic units were pulled, last minute, to be part of 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's Search and Support platoon. The squadron was going to head up security for the International Zone in Baghdad and needed females to search the women entering the heavily fortified area.

"I needed to have a certain amount of females to perform my mission," Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, 4-9 Cav's senior non-commissioned officer explained. "My organic organization didn't have enough, so I needed other units from the BSB (15th Brigade Support Battalion) and the BSTB (2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion) to each provide 12 females a piece so I could be able to accomplish my mission."

So the 32 women all picked up and headed to 4-9 Cav where they trained to work at checkpoints.

"We had some ECP (entry control point) training in Kuwait. You know, what to look for," said Pfc. Amanda Tyler who used to be a military policeman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2BCT. "We learned how to search and what to feel for on the body. Basically signs to look for."

Initially, some Soldiers said they were skeptical about the move.

"Well, everyone at first was really, well, not on edge, but a little hesitant because no one really knew each other,"



(Photo by Spc. Kate Huff 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Pfc. Amanda Tyler, of Tampa, Fla. who is part of with 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's Search and Support platoon searches a female on at one of the International Zone gates March 17.**

said Tyler, a native of Tampa, Fla. "We all came from different jobs and all of that."

Not only was it matter of getting to know new people, but also a matter of abandoning countless hours of deployment training in their old military occupational specialties. Shelby explained that she had spent over two years training to do her job for a deployment, but now that she's been at the ECP for almost five months she knows that the experience she gains here will help her when she returns to her original job.

"I've gained a lot of tactical knowledge and think that I can apply that to my old job," said Shelby. "I've gained a lot of experience out here. So I would say this is an invaluable experience. And I'm glad to have the opportunity to do it."

That sentiment seemed to extend to the personal relationships the Soldiers formed.

"We all like being a part of this. I mean, we do all miss our companies and our original positions, but we've come

together as a team; we support one another. We're proud of what we're doing, and we enjoy it. We've all made a lot of good friends; we all stick together," said Tyler.

They've also had a chance to get out and meet the locals and find out how their mission affects them.

"We've all learned a lot of Arabic and a lot about the culture. Which I think will help us in the long run," Tyler said. "I think it helps [the local nationals] - that we do respect their culture - that we do respect their rules - their religion."

Though they were displaced from their original positions, the female searchers of 4-9 have found their niche in this deployment.

"We all came from different places, all at the last minute- kind of in a whirlwind thing -- didn't even know what we were doing or if we'd like it. I think it's a good thing," said Tyler. "A lot of people are taking pride in what they're doing because they feel like they're doing something helpful."